## REMARKS

A. Request for Reconsideration

Applicant has carefully considered the matters raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action but remains of the opinion that patentable subject matter is present. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's position based on the following remarks.

B. Claims Status

Claims 1, 4-8 are pending in this Application.

Claim 1 has been amended to address Examiner's objection.

No new matter has been added by way of this amendment.

C. Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 1 and suggested certain amendments. These suggestions are appreciated and adopted herein.

D. The Invention

The present invention is directed to a drive device having a rolling-body screw mechanism rotatably

mounted in a housing by a multi-row angular ball bearing. The outer ring of the multi-row angular ball bearing is seated in the bore of the housing and inner ball grooves of the angular ball bearing are formed on an outer circumference of the spindle nut.

E. Prior Art Rejection

The Examiner had put forward three prior art rejections. The prior art rejections are as follows:

(1) Claims 1, 4 and 5 had been rejected as being anticipated by Tatewaki;

(2) Claims 6 and 7 had been rejected as being unpatentable over a combination of Tatewaki and Osborne; and

(3) Claim 8 had been rejected as being unpatentable over a combination of Tatewaki and Bugosh.

Tatewaki had been cited to teach ball grooves (groove on inner ring where ball 108 sits, fig 2) of the angular bearing (113, fig 2) are formed on an outer circumference of the spindle nut (103, fig 2). Applicants respectfully submit that while Tatewaki does teach the ball grooves on the inner ring where balls 108 sits, as shown in figure 2, the inner ring is a separate structure on to itself and is

not an integral part of the spindle nut (103, fig 2). This can be more clearly seen in figure 7, which is an enlarged sectional view of a portion B in figure 5. (See [0079], fifth sentence.)

In figure 7, it is clearly shown that the inner ring on which the ball grooves for balls 108 are located, is a separate structure from spindle nut 241. The inner ring is part of the double-row angular ball bearing 243. Ball nut 241 is rotatably held through double-row angular ball bearing 243 in the ball screw housing 233. (See [0080], lines 12 - 15.)

In contrast, claim 1 of the present invention requires the ball grooves of the angular ball bearing to be formed directly on an outer circumference of the spindle nut. The present invention improves on the prior art by eliminating the need for a separate bearing inner ring mounted on the spindle nut.

Thus, the present invention clearly distinguishes over the teachings of Tatewaki, Osborne, and Bugosh taken alone or in combination.

F. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the Application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Should any fees or extensions of time be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit account #02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

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